

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: CHEN, Mei-Li

SERIAL NO.: 10/825,109

ART UNIT: 3753

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EXAMINER: Rivell, J.A.

TITLE: WATER INLET/OUTLET STRUCTURE FOR FAUCET

Amendment A: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (canceled). This claim is canceled by the present amendment.

2. (new) A water inlet/outlet structure for a ceramic shaft of a single-handled faucet comprising:

a valve housing having a valve chamber disposed at an interior thereof, said valve chamber having a toothed surface extending around an outer wall of said valve chamber, said toothed surface receiving a ring thereon, said ring having an interior toothed surface engaging said toothed surface on said outer wall of said valve chamber;

a switch valve set received in an interior of said valve housing, said switch valve set comprising a control stick seat extending from a support seat, said support seat affixed to a separate switch valve; and

a valve mount received in said interior of said valve chamber, said valve mount having an upper switch valve and a lower switch valve, said lower switch valve having a hot/cold water inlet holes and a water outlet hole, said hot/cold water inlet holes each having a grooved seat disposed at a bottom periphery thereof, said water outlet hole having a grooved seat disposed at a bottom periphery thereof, said valve mount having hot/cold water inlet passages and a water outlet passage, each of said hot/cold water inlet passages having a higher protruded wall received in said

grooved seat of said hot/cold water inlet holes, said water outlet passage having a higher protruded wall received in said grooved seat of said water outlet hole, said valve mount having a lower stop wall integrally formed outside said higher protruded walls of said hot/cold water inlet passages and said water outlet passage so as to define a channel groove therebetween, said valve mount having a sealing ring securely engaged in said channel groove, said sealing ring having a shape identically corresponding to a shape of said channel groove, the grooved seats being coupled to the higher protruded wall so as to form a liquid-tight seal therebetween, said sealing ring forming a liquid-tight seal between said lower switch valve and said valve mount.